

West Lafayette Go Greener Commission Meeting

Minutes of Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 7:15 PM

Council Chambers, West Lafayette City Hall

Attending: Allen Jacobsen; Dave Henderson; Heather Gall; Lindsey Payne; Thom Davis; Parr Durr; Gene Hanus; Tom Voight

Absentees: Aparna Puri

Others: Rick Parsons; Sara Peel; Peter Downey

- I. Allen: Call to order
- II. Lindsey motions to approve, Thom seconds, approved
- III. Financial Report - Allen
 - a. GG Commission fund, current balance \$4067.50, bulk of money from two Tipmont grants (2009—green events initiative, 2011—composting bins)
 - b. Allen will send Heather and Lindsey the acceptance letter for 2011 grant
 - c. Lindsey/Heather will sort out participants and get final income to Allen
- IV. Chairperson – Allen
 - a. Is OK with assuming until March 2013
 - b. Thom moves to support Allen as chair until March 2013, Gene seconds, all approve
- V. Election of Vice Chairperson until March 2013 - Allen
 - a. Lindsey nominates Thom Davis, Allen seconds, all approve
- VI. Election of new members – Allen
 - a. Allen has a spreadsheet with the current commissioner information, please update
 - b. 4 council appointees (1 vacant), replacement of Diane has to be acted upon by city council, expire March 2013
 - c. 5 commission appointed members (2 vacant positions), both expire in March of 2014
 - d. Caveat –7 sitting members must be from WL, 5 could be non-residents, we already have 5 non-residents; was established by council in enabling ordinance
 - Lindsey – can we amend ordinance? Yes, but will probably take 2-3 months
 - Allen – so we can take action tonight on electing new members
 - Allen – did talk to Marty Senate—CityBus about joining and he is interested, do others have ideas?
 - Tom – motion to approach city council to amend non-resident/resident status clause to a commission by-law, Allen second, all approve (Allen will talk to Peter Bundy about it)
- VII. Committee Reports and On-Going Projects – Allen
 - a. Don't really have any standing committee

- b. Need to move green events project forward—after the first of the year refocus on green events, need to coordinate volunteers better, i.e., a volunteer coordinator—perhaps target WLHS students, good group from Green Tour
 - c. Lindsey - Linda Anderson manages newsletter, send information about Ford grant to highlight, how does she manage this list, how big is it? Will find out
- VIII. Sustainability Report - Lindsey
 - a. Where is it? Looks the same as it did 3 months ago
 - b. Gene – is there a date to report to the commission?
 - c. Allen – lets target March 2013
 - d. See current report as stands, highlighted metrics are missing data, please volunteer to take missing metrics and email to Lindsey, lbpayne78@gmail.com, by Friday, 11/ 16/2012, 5:00 pm
 - Also take a look to see what might be missing and feel free to add to
 - e. Target goal to have metrics done by next meeting, December 11, 2012
 - f. Heather – how do we report to city council?
 - g. Allen – we will leave that up to them, will ask Peter
- IX. Recap on current recycling project/carts - Gene
 - a. Peter - 5,000 carts coming in, 7 semi loads; city staffing sparse; hope to start delivery after Thanksgiving, will be dropped off and numbered for tracking purposes; encouraging citizens to swap out old bins for new ones; literature is going with carts and instructions are hot stamped into top of lid; can upgrade cart size if multiple bins are set out; city is going to pay for recycling advertizing; picked up over 500 tons of leaves since October, once leaves are gone carts will be a go
 - b. Gene - Original intent was getting Indian Trails/Wabash Shores neighborhood to go from 37% to 50% (originally intent was on household trash to be achieved by end of 2014, based on current metrics being kept)
 - c. Dave Henderson – last month took 50 tons of food waste from Purdue’s food courts (post-consumer waste, food prep waste, etc.)
- X. New project for next year - Allen
 - a. Brainstorming session - energy efficiency & alternative energy; natural resource stewardship; recycling and environmental purchasing; smart transit; smart development; measurement and research; public outreach & events
 - b. New projects can be based on weaknesses in the metrics – Heather/Thom
 - c. Bring new ideas to the table next month – Allen
- XI. Restructuring of Commission – Allen
 - a. Lindsey - Greater Lafayette Commerce Community of Choice Plan, Jamie Metzinger has been tasked with assessing current sustainable practices and organizations/efforts, there is an opportunity for GG to be involved shaping next steps, how serious GLC is about supporting these long-term is yet to be determined
 - b. Allen - Diane’s letter to mayor, mayor did not respond; doesn’t make sense to have 3 groups doing the same thing; Lafayette/County doesn’t have commission that directly advises elected officials

- c. Thom – data is really easy to grab at county level, very different ways of approaching sustainability as well
- d. Parr – need to be more influential, what we have been discussing all along
- e. Sara – not really sure WREC really influences city, more give and take, we have their ear, they sit on the steering board; TCWQ does something similar with cities and counties all sitting at the same table making stormwater decisions
- f. Parr – how do we become a resource for the city?
- g. Sara – does the city want that?
- h. Thom – who is the city? Council, department heads, etc.?
- i. Tom – Dave would you come to us if you needed support?
- j. Dave – do you have the expertise one and who really controls it?
- k. Thom – our can we serve as the fact-finders, seekers of what is needed so it can then go to the city
- l. Lindsey – we do have the Clear-Blue-Green certification program that currently awards green certs and Sustainability award
- m. Thom – maybe we need to award more things, get more PR, create energy via public interests
- n. Dave – can pick two businesses presenting a green award
- o. Allen – any apartment complexes that recycle? WL? Lafayette? No
- p. Rick - W. Lafayette – Salem Courthouse Apartments currently have bins for residents to recycle. (Just visited them last week to get recycling guides in the apartment complex); Lafayette – Bradford Place Apartments currently have bins for residents to recycle. (They seem very environmentally conscious. I am doing a talk for their residents in Jan. on Recycling & H.H.W.); I have been to a bunch of the apartments on both sides of the river and the majority do not have any recycling going at this time. There are a handful on each side who do currently have some kind of recycling either through bins or a recycling trailer. I’m hoping to encourage more to provide recycling to their residents. The big issue is waste haulers charge to have a recycle trailer available in the apartment complex!
- XII. Lindsey - change of meeting time?
 - a. Parr motions for 6 pm, Thom seconds motion, all approved
- XIII. Thom motions to adjourn, Lindsey seconds, adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:17PM
- XIV. Next meeting December 11, 2012, 6:00 PM!

Recorded by Lindsey Payne and submitted to Allen Jacobsen on November 13, 2012

Appendix A

Wildlife / Vegetation

1. # of bird species, bird count (Barney Dunning, Purdue?)
2. Toxic Pesticides, chemical use of city departments (ind dept)
3. Wet land, prairie restoration (Dave Buck)
4. # of city trees (Bev Shaw and Parks dept City)
 - 6100 city trees in West Lafayette.

Water and River Quality (Lindsey—completed)

1. # of CSOs (WREC)
 - 3 outfalls, map attached
2. Unwanted medicine drop offs in pounds (Janet Shepherd)
 - 2010 @600 lbs @290 people
 - 2011 @1631 lbs @955 people
 - 2012 @2485 lbs @ 875 people

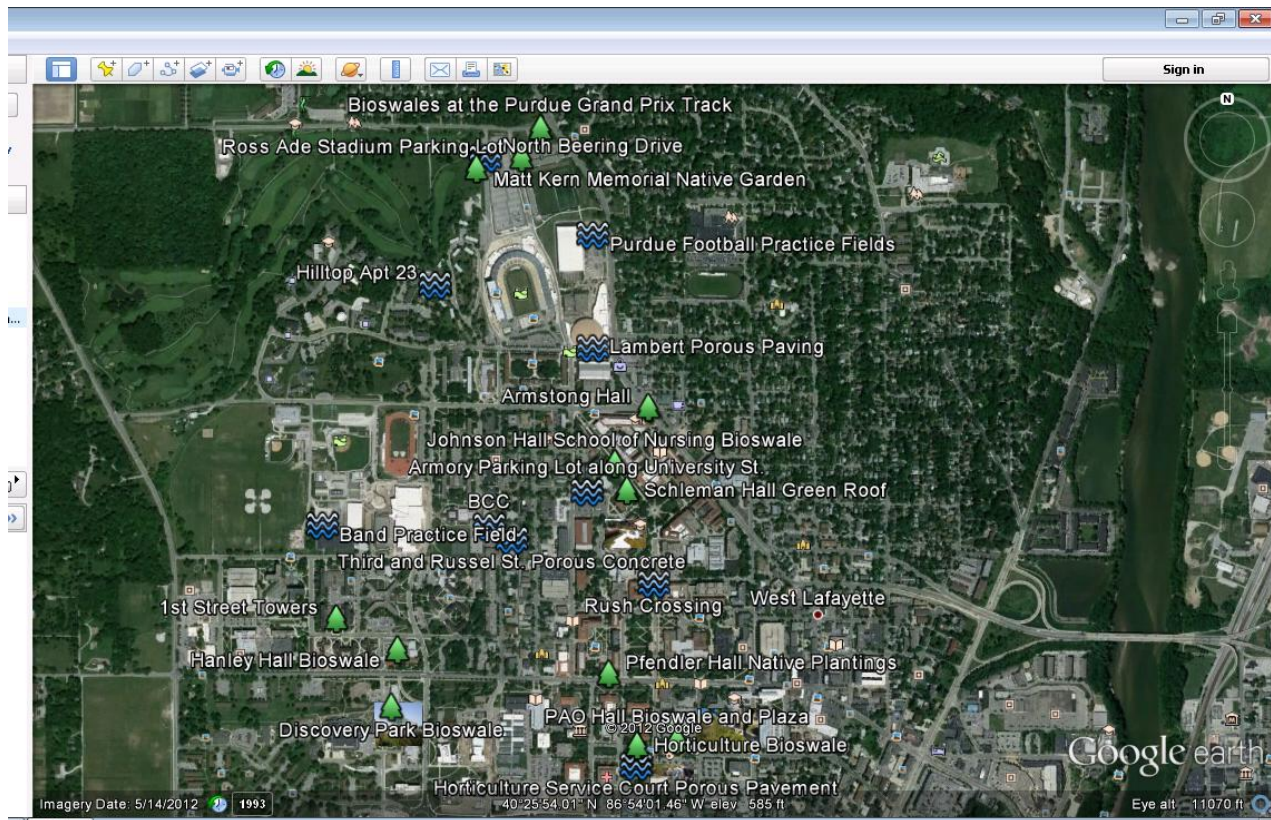
As you can see 2012 is way over pounds of 2011 and it is only July!

3. Green Practices (WREC)

Attached: map showing practices installed in West Lafayette based on what we know from voluntary uploads to TippEcoNow, rain barrel sale lists, 319 funded projects and Purdue's stormwater list. Include source of info as www.TippEcoNow.com and/or WREC.

In total, green practices in West Lafayette are as follows:

- 20 rain gardens or bioswales (Bioswales are on PU campus; RG are private except for Lilly Nature Center)
 - 14 pervious paver locations (does not include two new projects that are 319 funded on Chauncey)
 - 35 rain barrel locations (total number = 54)
 - 1 green roof
 - 13 native plantings (likely well short of the actual total)
4. Other statistics re health of the river (WREC)
 - <http://www.wabashriver.net/wabash-river-survey/>
 5. Nontraditional water retention planning (765-775-5130, Michael Susong)
(BMPs that reduce runoff like infiltration ponds, pervious pavement, wetlands, bioswales, etc.)
 - Waste water treatment plant – small planting, more residential rain garden-scale
 - Lilly Nature Center – rain garden, pervious pavement
 - Three ponds at intersection of NW and Lindberg – plantings around perimeters are water plants, submersible, 2 wet and 1 dry, plants can handle both conditions
 - Cumberland Avenue between Yeager and US 52 – plantings, curb turn-outs
 - Purdue Campus/Tippecanoe Partnership Group, WL, Laf, Battleground, Dayton, Purdue, Tippecanoe County, Ivy Tech, tippecanoesw.org



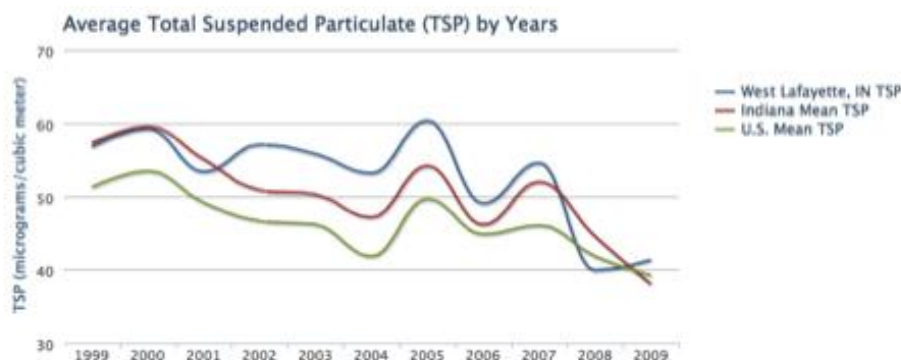
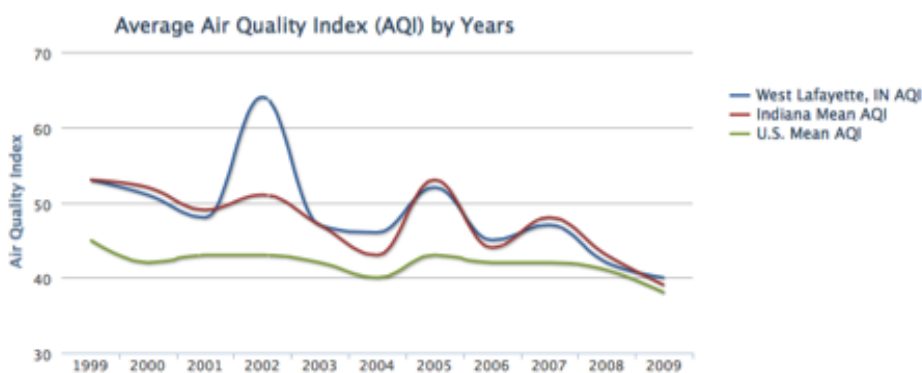
- Low-Impact Design – green practices, 200 pages of specifications of alternatives developers can use, ordinance allows this design to be used, but not required

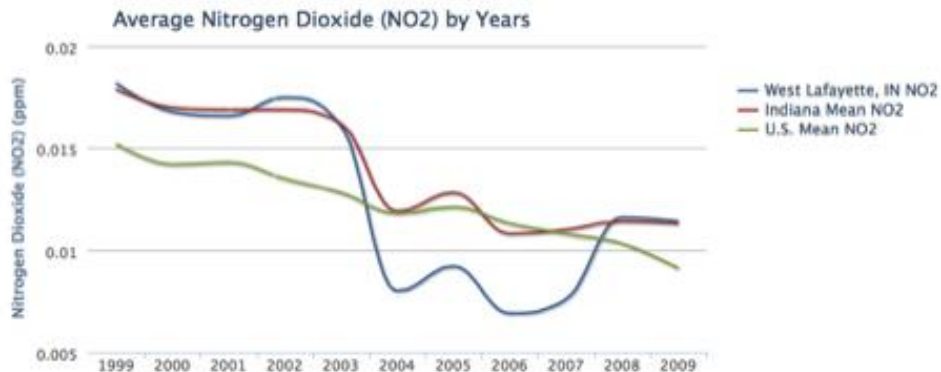
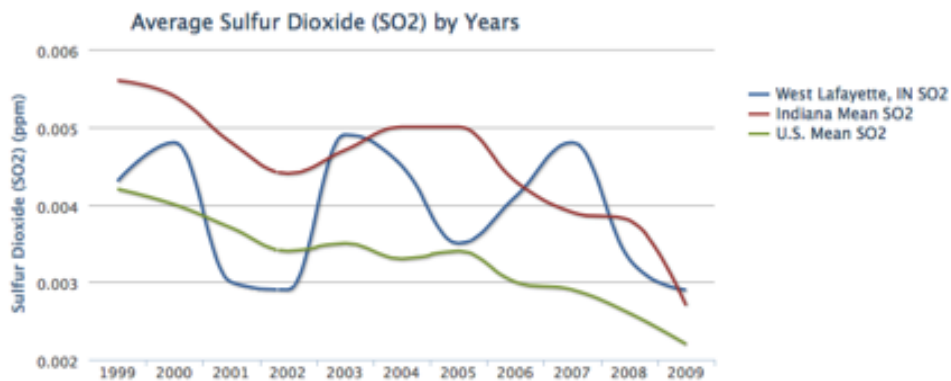
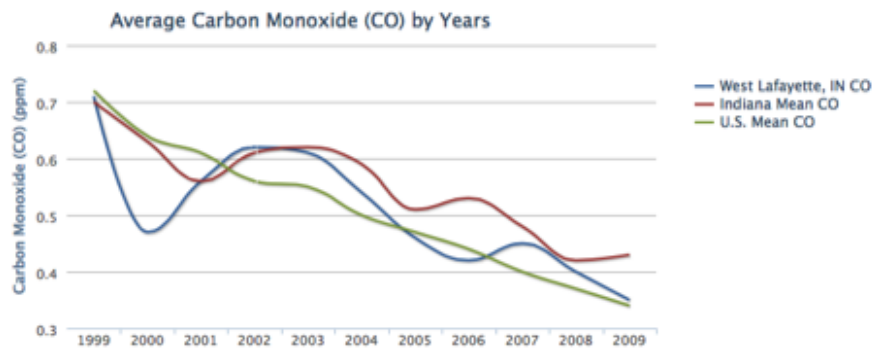
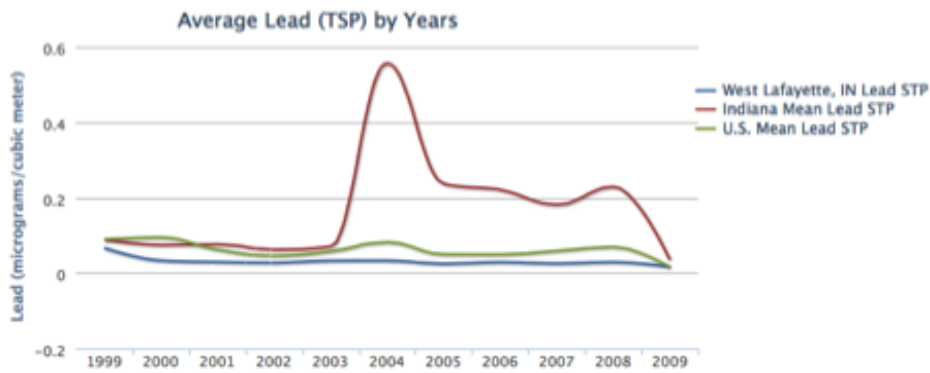
Air Quality (Heather—completed)

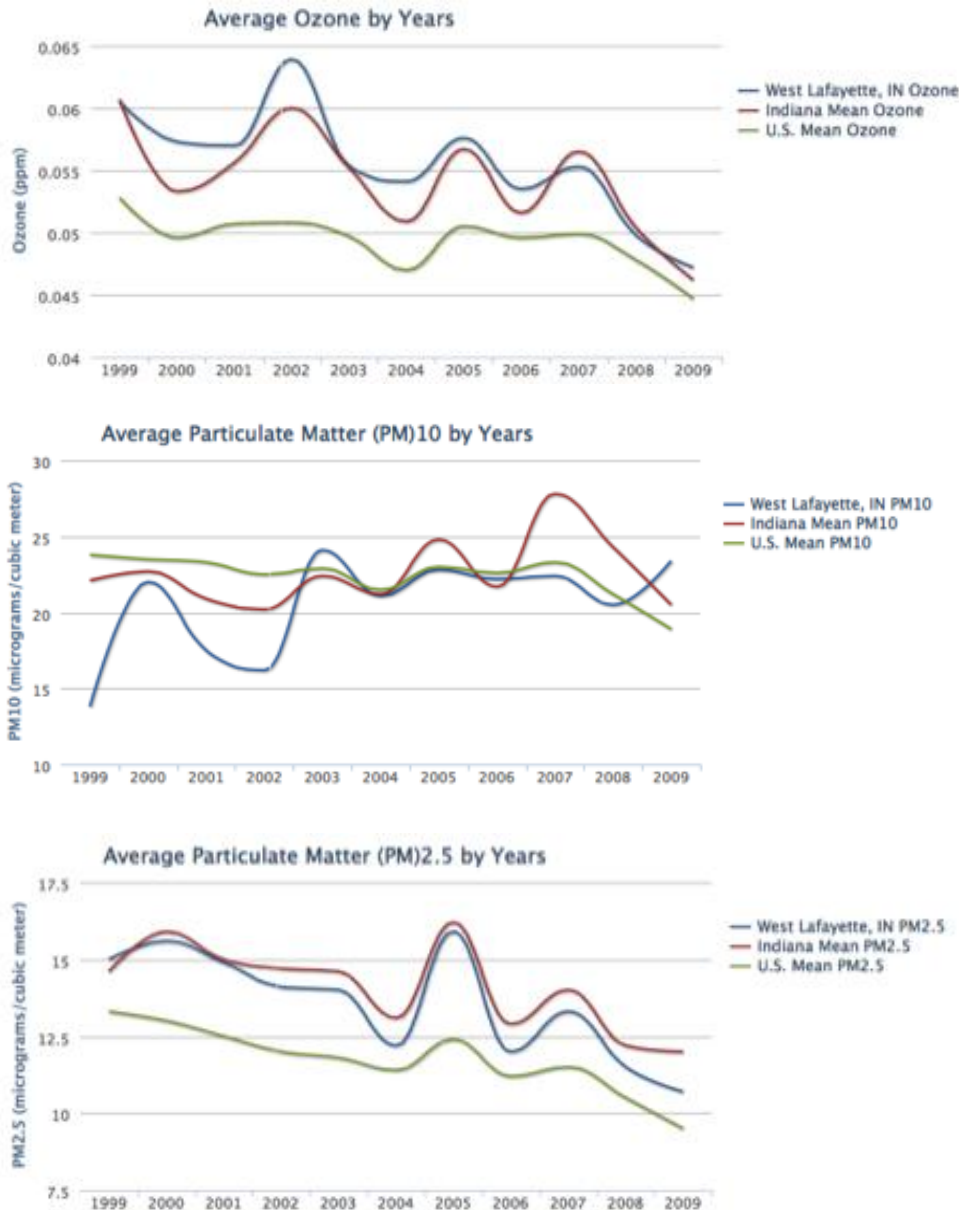
11. EPA air quality index (Earth and Atmospheric Science dept, Purdue)

- West Lafayette, IN has an overall air quality score of 7.4/10, where 0 corresponds to “breathable” and 10 corresponds to “outstanding”. This overall score is comprised of the following scores for various pollutants: (i) 9.1 for carbon monoxide; (ii) 7.6 for ozone; (iii) 8.6 for PM 10 (particulate matter less than 10 μm in diameter); (iv) 3.8 for PM 2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 μm in diameter); (v) 5.4 for sulfur dioxide; and (vi) 6.2 for nitrogen dioxide. (Source: <http://www.homefacts.com/airquality/Indiana/Tippecanoe-County/West-Lafayette.html>)
- The Environmental Protection Agency uses an Air Quality Index (AQI) to characterize the air quality at locations across the country. The AQI ranges from 0 to 500, with 0-50 as “good” air quality and 301-500 as “hazardous”. The graphs below show the trends in air quality for West Lafayette, IN from 1999 - 2009. (Source: <http://www.usa.com/west-lafayette-in-air-quality.htm>). In general, air quality in West Lafayette is similar to Indiana’s air quality but is worse than the nation’s average air quality. The overall trend since 2002 has been towards improved air quality. Air quality parameters typically associated with emissions from fixed (e.g., factories) and mobile (e.g., cars) sources are nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. Sulfur dioxide levels have been above the national average since 2003.

While sulfur dioxide levels do not appear to have a strong trend, nitrogen dioxide levels generally decreased until 2004 and then showed an overall increase until 2008. The levels remained approximately the same, but above the national average from 2008-2009. PM 2.5 levels have been higher than the national average since 2009 but generally slightly lower than the state average. Additionally, other than a peak in 2005, fine particulate levels (PM 2.5) have shown a gradual decrease over the past decade. PM 2.5 levels are important because they are believed to pose the largest health risks (http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/pm/pm25_index.html). The sources of fine particulate matter are dominantly activities related to combustion (i.e., motor vehicles, power plants, etc.).







12. Asthma and allergy rates (Tipp County health Dept?)

- Tippecanoe County is ranked 10th in the state for the number of asthma-related visits to the emergency room (<http://www.unityhc.com/news/view/lafayette-allergy-asthma-clinic-and-the-tobacco-free-partnership-celebrate-world-asthma-day-119>). The number of asthma-related visits to the emergency room in Tippecanoe County is 46.8 per 10,000 residents, as compared to 49.7 for the state (http://www.in.gov/isdh/tpc/files/local_policy_brief_tippecanoe.pdf). Asthma cases can be related to smoking, and 24% of residents in Tippecanoe County are smokers (<http://county-health.findthedata.org/l/774/Tippecanoe>).

13. Clean fleet rates- WL- owned vehicles, (Clerk's office?) and City Bus

- CityBus has 73 buses in its fleet, including 20 buses that are diesel-electric hybrid buses. CityBus also offsets some of its electricity by using three wind turbines. Since July 2011, these turbines have generated 187,665 kWh of energy (as of August 4, 2012). This energy generation has prevented 146.5 tons of CO₂ emissions.

Waste

14. Recycling rates- WL residential (Streets/ sanitation)

15. Recycling amounts from drop off site – oil, glass, etc (Streets/ Sanitation)

16. Yard waste pickup rates (Streets/ Sani)

Waste (Thom)

17. Short term events held within the city (e-waste, goodwill, metal pickups, shredding, compost programs, school lunch program)

Waste

18. Other nonfood diversion (construction waste, asphalt, etc.)

Volumes of Household hazardous waste recycled (ask Rick Parson)?

How much waste is going out? Not recycled (Peter Downey)?

Transit

19. Ridership #s (City Bus, city routes)

20. Miles of trails (Parks and Rec)

21 Miles of bike lanes (John Thomas- what metrics will the APC use?)

22. # of bike racks (Development Dept)

23. Walk score – ratio of total sidewalks to roads? (Safe routes to school master plan? Dave Buck)

Smart Development

24. Population Density (APC)

25. % of parks, athletic fields, open space, recreational facilities

Food and Agriculture (Lindsey / Aparna—completed)

25. \$ sales at Farmers' market or number of bags given away (Bev Shaw)

- \$300,000 sales a season
- 500 bags given away each year

26. # of, area covered by community gardens

West Lafayette:

Don Meade at county extension off -(491-7267) - 50 plots (8 x 24 feet each) at Kalberer. It is a local citizens group.

Jeff Phillips / Kim Hardaway at Purdue Extension Off (494-2090) : 200 plots (30 x 30 feet each)
Lafayette:

By the Mall - 3150 Sagamore pkwy., Lafayette, there are 150 plots (15 x 20 feet) and 30 plots (15 x 20) at Chatam square, (near Greenbush)

Ian Thomson (494-4652) did not get back to me for info on N. 10th st community garden

Public and Staff education

29. How does the public/ staff get information? EXAMPLES?

City Policies and Planning

30. Long term planning (storm water and trash plan)

31. West Lafayette- Clear-Blue-Green certified? Other designations?

32. Purchasing policies

33. Other environmental policies (no idling?)

- We don't have anything official in that regard but I'd like to write up a bit on what other cities do when we move on to recommendations (if we include them at another time.) all departments would say, if asked directly, that they comply with any state and fed regulations.

Energy Consumption

34. City services and community?

Environmental Efforts

Appendix A: Potential GG Volunteers

- Marcus Neiman, marcus_86219@hotmail.com
- Tyler Dull, tdull@purdue.edu
- Kent Freeman, freemak@purdue.edu
- Fushcia-Ann Hoover, fhoover@purdue.edu
- Kirk Yoder Purdue ESC - Environmental Science Club, purdueesc@gmail.com
- Anne Caroline Michel - Caribbean Association at Purdue University, (309) 7062821, annecaro92@yahoo.fr
- Wendy Reed, Process Engineer, wreed@CookBiotech.com, Cook Biotech Incorporated, 765.497.3355 ext. 4997, 765.807.1997 (direct)
- Aimei, achua@purdue.edu
- Andrea Reifus - Senior obtaining BS in Environmental Science - Public Policy & Economic Analysis, areifeis@gmail.com
- ICAN Youth Foundation - "ACT" - requesting contacts, projects or opportunities for women and youth members to work on Environmental Activism/Volunteering
- Silai C Mirzoy - senior at Purdue, smirzoy@purdue.edu
- Bill Arthur, wilarth306@gmail.com
- Sara Peel, CLM, Director, Watershed Projects, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, 200 N. 2nd Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47906, phone: (765) 337-9100, email: speel@lafayette.in.gov